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THE DECLARATION

Of the Right Honourable

HENRY

EARLE OF

CVMBERLAND

LORD Lievtenant Generall of His MAIESTIES Forces in *Yorke-Shire*.

And of the *Nobility*, *Gentry*, and others His *Majesties* Subjects now assembled at *Yorke* for His *Majesties* Service and the Defence of This City and County.

Printed at *York* by *Stephen Bukley*, 1642.

By Speciall command.

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THE DECLARATION

Of the Right Honourable, *Henry Earle of Cumberland*, &c.

FRom the deep sence of the growing miseries which have formerly afflicted this distressed Country, and our of the grievous apprehension of those inevitable ruines, and desolations, with a reall War fomented, hatched, and brought forth by our continuall distractions, must infallibly bring upon us; We thought it the least of our duty to our God, our King, and our country, to endeavour all means possible to discharge our selves before God and Man, and to leave nothing unattempted which might avert and prevent those fearfull calamities which as it must be consequently the most bloudy and ruineous) war of all others; and therefore in pursuance of that due affection to our Native Country; We first prevailed with our most gracious Sovereigne, whose Royal Inclination met our humble desires, in the most ready wayes, and apparent meanes which we could devise and finde out for the peace and safety thereof, and set aside all other respects, though never so much conducing to the main of His owne affaires, for our security; and therefore carried a way the fatall Cloud of War, which in a hideous form hung over our heads, to disburden it selfe in another Clymate, so as we conceived, we had no further worke or labour, but to pay the duties of prayse and thankfulnesse to our God and King; whose grace and goodnesse had freed us from the visible consequences of a great and terrible tempest. but since it hath pleased

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the unsearchable Wisedome of Almighty [illegible]ver it, That another storme hath broken and powred a great part of it upon this Country (when we least feared, and by those means which we least suspected) and that contrary to all expectation work our misery) there appeared those out of our owne Bowels, which have begun a War and kindled a flame, which doth hazard the ruine and destruction of their Native Country; which we take as a Punishment due to our manifold sins and offences, and leave the particuler executioners thereof, to His owne wisedome and Iustice hereafter. yet we haue not been a wanting to the safety and protection of this People (so long, and in so many wayes afflicted, but have appolyed our selves to all such wayes and means, which in Humane reason we could hope might procure a timely remedy to those bleeding wounds. And therefore in a Treaty at *Rodwell*, with some Gentlemen of this County, of whose affection to peace and Vnity (though differing in Opinion from us) we were most confident: Sundry Articles were agreed and Concluded upon, all wholly tending to those ends, and conducing to reall settlement, which was sought after by us with so much candor plaine dealing, and earnestnesse, that we willingly let passe the manifest advantages which we then had over the oppolers of the setled Peace of this County, and judging the affections of others by our own desires and inclinations, declined and quitted all other considerations, but such as might purchase a good correspondence and amity with those Gentlemen and others, whom at that time it lay in our Power to have forced or destroyed; and that nothing might be awanting to oblige them, sett at Liberty sundry Prisoners, some of good qnality, upon their word and Faith, to returne them againe if the Treaty were not preformed; and condescended to all the World knows That we aymed at the Publique safety & assurance: Yet not withstanding all this, without the least breach on our behalfe, particuler passions and interests hath so far prevailed, That as, soone as they were freed of the danger wherein they were then engaged, contrary to their *Hands*, *Faith* and *protestations*, they have wholly broken that Agreement so solemnly concluded, & without rendring the least reason (which indeed is impossible and of which they can never excuse themselves) have with

in[illegible]ons; and by a ſpecious offer of Peace (which it ſeems was the leaſt of their thoughts) ſtrengthned, and prepraed themſelves for War, by pretence of ſafety to the County, diſveloped themſelves from danger, and procured ſecurity to their own perſons, and by a ſeeming deſire to ſtop the deluge of War (begun by them alone) opened a breach to all the miſeries & calamities which muſt now moſt invitable overwhelm this diſtreſſed Country; whereby before the utmoſt extrimity hath appeared, we have already ſuffered what can befall any people (ſetting aſide, firing Townes and Villages) by the Hand of a cruell and Forraigne enemy; Strangers brought in to oppreſſe us, our houſes plundred, goods deſtroyed and taken away, our houſholds diſperced, Wives and children baniſhed, the perſons of divers of us ſeized, and Imprisoned, our lives endangered, and ſought after, by Sword or Famine; (and what is beyond all beleife) thoſe who are unqueſtionably innocent, and in no capacity to be involved in our pretended offences (if we be guilty of any) our Children (even thoſe whoſe Infant yeares admit no colour of objection) our Servants (employed only in domeſtick commands) ſought after, and indangered in the ſame meaſure and degree of cruelty, violence, and oppreſſion. And that no aggravation may be a wanting to encreaſe our ſufferings, all thoſe exorbitances executed under the glorious pretences of ſafety of Religion and preſervation of State, and done by Authority and command of Parliament (which we acknowledge and beleive to be the Guardian of Publique liberty) and who we are confident being choſen by us for aſſertors of our Freedoms, will not enthrale us; being truſted with the property of our goods, wil not take them from us; being ſelected for the preſervation of our Laws, will not violate or infringe them; and that in ſo high a meaſure, as more could not be perpetrated, if we were conquered and ſubdued by the moſt barbarous and violent Enemy. We have heard and do beleive, That both the Houſes have commanded the *Militia* to be ſetled & that they think it neceſſary, for ſome reaſons (beſt knowne to themſelves) that the power which untill this time, hath bin unqueſtionably in the Kings of this land, ſhold now be ſetled in themſelves yet theſe admitted, we cannot be perſwaded, That it is the intention or meaning of the Parliament, that all who are not convin-

vinced of the neceſſity, or who can...
Oathes, which tyes them to the knowne Lawes of the Land till they be repealed, and to obey His Maieſties command in thoſe things wherein it appears Hee hath manifeſt Right, untill He hath given a way and parted with that Right by His own aſſent, or who are yet Newters, and conſcionably, expect a legall Rule whereby to be directed, ſhould preſently with out due proceſſe of Law, be deveſted from all property of Goods, Liberty of perſons, Lives and Fortunes, and be in a worſe condition for not performing what is in no Law, then any Man can be for offending and diſobeying all the Lawes which were ever yet eſtabliſhed: and much leſſe, that the friends and ſervants, the faulty and guiltleſſe, thoſe whoſe condition or inability free them from aſſiſting in, or exerciſing any *Militia*, Clergy-men, Babes, Old Men, women, ſhould be included and wrapped up in one common fate and deſtruction, contrary to the rules of God and nature; which make a large difference between the innocent, and the offender, and the cuſtoms and Laws of this Realme, which give freedome to diverſe in thoſe caſes and have ſo long maintained this Kingdom in peace, by diſtributing rewards and puniſhments (not to all a like) but to the conſcionably obedient, or wilfull contemners thereof. Theſe diſtructive courſes of violence, pretending neceſſity, were ever oppoſed when they were executed by Regall power, deferred & proteſted againſt by his Sacred *Maieſty*, altogether condemned by former, and this preſent Parliament, and not to be done or conſented to by any, without diſobedience to His *Majeſty*, offence to the Parliament, and injury to the Freedom and Liberty if this people and Kingdom. But wee are farre from believing theſe to be the command and Acts of an Engliſh Parliament, which our ſelves have ſo earneſtly deſired, ſo faithfully ſupported; but rather of ſome perſons, who (being now) contrary to their hopes, armed with power to gaine the affections of their Souldiers for farther ends and deſignes, and to make their particular profit by the generall ſpoyle, give way to this licentiouſneſſe, and ſuffer them to ranſome perſons and deſtroy the goods of the innocent people, and to make havocke and ſpole of all which comes in their way, letting looſe the Raines of government, and giving way to all manner of rapine (though the gaine on their ſide doth in no meaſure

coun. [illegible] on the other) to the unspeakeable detriment and dammage of this our flourishing, now miserable Country. By which courses it hath beene already endammaged (as we offer to make good) to the value of 100000 pound, besides the sufferance of many such barbarous outrages, scarce credible to be committed by Christians; and those so frequent, that if possible, they can bee denyed; and that the Houses will admit the proofe, we shall make them appeare in such numbers, and so abhominable, will exceed the beliefe of any, unlesse they see them sufficiently witnessed and attested. Out of our desire of peace, we have already endured beyond mortall sufferance, and are ready to suffer still in our owne particulars; and to set a part all Interests of our owne, and to expose our selves to the height of violence and rigour though undeserved (unlesse to obey our King according to His Laws be an offence) before wee will hazard the peace of this County, and this people, for any regard or respect whatsoever. And therefore because as our Adversaries do speciously pretend, That their Armes are raised only for seizing upon Delinquents, and bringing them to condigne punishments, or driving them out of the Country (which is their baite to catch the multitude.) We do unanimously professe and declare (although we are confident, and that their practises shew that whosoever hath mony or Plate, or Moveables, is a Delinquent, and must part with them ere he be guiltles.) to take away all scruples, if they will set down and expresse the names of the delinquents (if any be amongst us) and their offences, upon assurance that no other end is sought by their Armes; and that once obtained, they wil absolutely lay them down, and free the country: it shall be manifested, That we will not decline any just and legall tryall, or desire that a war should be continued, or the people disturb'd for the safeguard of them, or any of them: although we are most assured, that when by the tearme of Delinquency, they have quit their hands of such, who are most likely to oppose the ruinous proceedings, that others whose wealth, estates, or former actions unpleasing to these men, have made them obnoxious, shall succeed in the same misery; and very many, who suppose themselves in a good condition of grace and favour with them, shall fall into the like misfortune, as soone as the Lion sees

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fit time to discover his hidden Clawes; it being impossible they should be in a better estate of Innocency, then our selves, who have not at all wilfully offended, or opposed any of the knowne Lawes of this Kingdom. We have had wofull and sad experience, that the more our Adversaries are sought unto for peace, the farther they are estranged from it; and that all lenitive applications, doe but exasperate our disease. We doe protest before God and man, That wee will yet apply our selves to all meanes which may conduce to quiet, and settlement; but in the meane time will really and effectually labour for the safety of this Country, our selves, our wives, and children; and if for the preservation of all, that ought to be defended, and maintained by Mortall Man: we are necessitated and compelled by their example to call in Forces, and desire the Assistance of the Earle of Newcastle, and of our friends and Neighbours in the adjacent Counties (being of our own nation, and whose turne is next, and cause the same with ours, and that thereby some unforeseene or unwished accident arise, not then to be remedied, and that Yorkshire become an Akeldama and field of bloud, we lay the consequences and effects thereof at the dores, and upon the heads of those men who first begun, and kindled the flame in this County, and have hitherto refused our most brotherly and peaceable offers, and endeavouring for unity and tranquility, which on our parts hath bin so earnestly sought after, and attempted; that we can justly now say, we have freed our owne soules, discharged the duty of Christians, Englishmen, Patriates, and have bin refused in all: so as there remaines no more, but to defend our Country from Strangers, our lives from violence, our Wives and children from extremity of injury, our Houses from Rapine, our goods from spoyle, our Laws, liberties, property, and whatsoever is or can bee neere or deare unto us, from utmost hazard and destruction. In execution or which resolution, there is no course or means omitted, which may (as far as is possible) conduce to the benefit and preservation of the people. The Earle of Newcastle required assurance before he would march to our assistance, that the Country should be payed the billet of his Souldiers, which was before thought upon, and resolved by us, and caution is accordingly given; so that no man will receive losse

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or dammage by those forces, as far as it is in our power to provide or foresee. And because they have hitherto built up themselves upon false reports and foundations, and disguise and make the truth according as it may best fit their ends, and serve their purposes; and thereby not onely perswade the people with deceitfull rumours of his Majesties unfortunate proceedings (when in truth God hath wonderfully blessed him with most fortunate successe) but also casting false lights before their eyes, lay scandalous aspersions upon our actions and reall intendments, for the benefit of this County, striving to possesse them with a prejudicacy of whatsoever we go about to do; & accordingly are now seeking to poyson the minds of the people with a false opinion, and causelesse jealousie, That the Army now comming to our assistance, is assigned for the oppression, not deliverance; the destruction, not safegard of the Country; and will be the ruine of it wheresoever they passe. To stop the poysonous mouthes of malice it selfe, the Earle of New-Castle hath declared his honourable Intentions, to leave the Country in peace, as soone as he hath delivered it from these enemies of His Majesty, who now oppresse and tyrannise over it. In which endeavour wee doubt not, to find the reall concurrence of all who have interest in this County, and that they will not be behind their Neighbours and Allyes in seeking their owne preservations, being all owners of one common cause, and must (what ever pretences be made) in the end, runne the same course of violence and disolation. However, though we perish in this work, we shall rest satisfied, that we have preserved our Faith and Honour untainted: and if all other disert us in this resolution, wee will not faile our selves, nor our duty to our King and Country, wherein appeares so much Iustice and Piety: but are most confident by Gods blessing upon the performance of our just endeavours, to represse the enemies of His Majesties peace, and to conserve our selves and this Country, to the Glory of God, the service of our King, and mutuall comfort of one another.

FINIS.